

**METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING WIDEBAND
SERVICES USING MEDIUM AND LOW EARTH ORBIT
SATELLITES**

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A method and apparatus for mitigating communications interference between satellite communications systems in different orbits is disclosed. The method comprises the steps of evaluating a geometrical relationship between a second ground station and the satellites in the second satellite constellation, and directing communications between the second ground station and the second satellite according to the evaluated geometrical relationship. In one embodiment communications are handed over from a first satellite to another satellite when the first satellite is no longer at the highest elevation angle of visible satellites. In another embodiment, handover occurs when the first satellite drops below a minimum elevation angle.